providing a second support structure dynamically isolated from the first support structure;

providing a drive to move the movable stage such that a reaction force exerted by the movement of the movable stage is transferred to the first support structure; and

providing a position detector to detect a position of the movable stage, the position detector being supported by the second support structure.--

--35. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second support structure supports the irradiation apparatus.--

--36. (new) A method according to claim 35, wherein the irradiation apparatus includes a projection system.--

--37. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein the projection system optically projects the image.--

--38. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein the movable stage is located below the projection system.--

--39. (new) A method according to claim 35, wherein the irradiation apparatus includes a mask holder that holds a mask that defines the image.--

--40. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second support structure has a first portion that supports the movable stage and a second portion that supports the irradiation apparatus.--

--41. (new) A method according to claim 40, wherein the first portion and the second portion are connected rigidly to each other.--

--42. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein the position detector projects a light beam to a first mirror fixed to the movable stage and to a second mirror fixed to the projection system.--

B1 cont.

--43. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--44. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the movable stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

--45. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the movable stage is provided on the second support structure.--

--46. (new) A method according to claim 45, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--47. (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the second support structure includes a base member, and the guideless stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

--48. (new) A method according to claim 47, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the guideless stage.--

--49. (new) A method according to claim 48, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

--50. (new) A method according to claim 48, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

--51. (new) A method according to claim 45, wherein the movable stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

--52. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the second support structure includes a base member, and the substrate stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

--53. (new) A method according to claim 52, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the substrate stage.--

B1 cont.

--54. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

--55. (new) A method according to claim 53, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

--56. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second support structure is supported on a foundation.--

--57. (new) A method according to claim 56, further comprising:

providing a block between the foundation and the second support structure.--

--58. (new) A method according to claim 57, wherein the block comprises a vibration absorbing assembly that prevents transmission of vibration from the foundation to the second support structure.--

--59. (new) A method according to claim 56, wherein the foundation is the ground or a base structure.--

--60. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the drive comprises a linear motor.--

--61. (new) A method according to claim 60, wherein the linear motor comprises a magnet and a coil.--

--62. (new) A method according to claim 61, wherein the first support structure supports one of the magnet and the coil.--

--63. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the drive rotates the movable stage on an axis of the movable stage.--

--64. (new) A method according to claim 63, wherein the drive moves the movable stage based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

B1 cont.

--65. (new) A method according to claim 63, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--66. (new) A method according to claim 63, wherein the movable stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

Sub. C2

--67. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the drive moves the movable stage in a two dimensional plane, including movement in the plane in a first linear direction, in a second linear direction and in a rotative direction on an axis of the movable stage.--

--68. (new) A method according to claim 67, wherein the drive moves the movable stage based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--69. (new) A method according to claim 67, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--70. (new) A method according to claim 67, wherein the movable stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

--71. (new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the first support structure at least partly supports the drive.--

Sub. C3

Sub. C5

--72. (new) An image forming method that forms an image onto an object, comprising the steps of:

moving a stage;

transferring a reaction force caused by the movement of the stage to a first support structure;

detecting a position of the stage by a position detector that is supported by a second support structure dynamically isolated from the first support structure; and

forming the image onto the object by movement of the stage.--

B1 cont.

--73. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the image is formed on the object by an irradiation apparatus.--

--74. (new) A method according to claim 73, wherein the irradiation apparatus is a projection system.--

--75. (new) A method according to claim 74, wherein the step of moving the stage includes aligning the stage with the projection system.--

--76. (new) A method according to claim 74, wherein the projection system optically projects the image.--

--77. (new) A method according to claim 74, wherein the second support structure supports the projection system.--

--78. (new) A method according to claim 74, wherein the stage is located below the projection system.--

--79. (new) A method according to claim 77, wherein the second support structure supports the stage.--

--80. (new) A method according to claim 79, wherein the second support structure has a first portion that supports the stage, and a second portion that supports the projection system.--

--81. (new) A method according to claim 80, wherein the first portion and the second portion are connected rigidly to each other.--

--82. (new) A method according to claim 74, wherein the step of detecting a position of the stage comprises projecting a light beam to a first mirror fixed to the stage and to a second mirror fixed to the projection system.--

--83. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

B1 cont.

--84. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

--85. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the stage is provided on the second support structure.--

--86. (new) A method according to claim 85, wherein the stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

Amd. 97

--87. (new) A method according to claim 86, wherein the second support structure includes a base member and the guideless stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

--88. (new) A method according to claim 87, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the guideless stage.--

--89. (new) A method according to claim 88, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

--90. (new) A method according to claim 88, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

Amd. 98

--91. (new) A method according to claim 85, wherein the stage is a substrate stage on which the object is supported.--

--92. (new) A method according to claim 91, wherein the second support structure includes a base member and the substrate stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

--93. (new) A method according to claim 92, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the substrate stage.--

--94. (new) A method according to claim 93, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

B1 cont.

--95. (new) A method according to claim 93, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

--96. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the second support structure is supported on a foundation.--

--97. (new) A method according to claim 96, wherein the second support structure is supported on the foundation with a block between the foundation and the second support structure.--

--98. (new) A method according to claim 97, wherein the block comprises a vibration absorbing assembly that prevents transmission of vibration from the foundation to the second support structure.--

--99. (new) A method according to claim 96, wherein the foundation is the ground or a base structure.--

--100. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the stage moves based on a detection result by the position detector.--

--101. (new) A method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of:

effecting yaw correction of the stage.--

--102. (new) A method according to claim 72, wherein the movement of the stage is carried out by cooperation with a first member that is located on the first support member, and a second member that is connected to the stage.--

--103. (new) A method according to claim 102, wherein the first member is one of a magnet and a coil.--

--104. (new) A method of making a positioning apparatus that positions an object, comprising the steps of:

providing a first support structure;

providing a second support structure dynamically isolated from the first support structure;

providing a drive to move the object such that a reaction force exerted by the movement of the object is transferred to the first support structure; and

providing a position detector to detect a positional information of the object, the position detector being supported by the second support structure.--

--105. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the second support structure supports the object.--

--106. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the second support structure is supported on a foundation.--

--107. (new) A method according to claim 106, further comprising:

providing a block between the foundation and the second support structure.--

--108. (new) A method according to claim 107, wherein the block comprises a vibration absorbing assembly that prevents transmission of vibration from the foundation to the second support structure.--

--109. (new) A method according to claim 106, wherein the foundation is the ground or a base structure.--

--110. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the drive rotates the object on an axis of the object.--

--111. (new) A method according to claim 110, wherein the drive moves the object based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

B1 cont. Sub. VC5

--112. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the drive moves the object in a two dimensional plane, including movement in the plane in a first linear direction, in a second linear direction and in a rotative direction on an axis of the object.--

--113. (new) A method according to claim 112, wherein the drive moves the object based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--114. (new) A method according to claim 104, further comprising:

providing a movable stage to hold the object.--

--115. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the drive moves the object via the movable stage.--

Sub. D10

--116. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the position detector projects a light beam to a first mirror fixed to the movable stage.--

--117. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--118. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the movable stage is provided on the second support structure.--

D

--119. (new) A method according to claim 118, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

Sub. D11

--120. (new) A method according to claim 119, wherein the second support structure includes a base member and the guideless stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

--121. (new) A method according to claim 120, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the guideless stage.--

--122. (new) A method according to claim 121, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

B1 cont.

--123. (new) A method according to claim 121, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

--124. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the drive rotates the movable stage on an axis of the movable stage.--

--125. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the drive moves the movable stage based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--126. (new) A method according to claim 124, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--127. (new) A method according to claim 114, wherein the drive moves the movable stage in a two dimensional plane, including movement in the plane in a first linear direction, in a second linear direction and in a rotative direction on an axis of the movable stage.--

--128. (new) A method according to claim 127, wherein the drive moves the movable stage based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--129. (new) A method according to claim 127, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--130. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the drive comprises a magnet and a coil.--

--131. (new) A method according to claim 130, wherein the first support structure supports one of the magnet and the coil.--

--132. (new) A method according to claim 104, wherein the first support structure at least partly supports the drive.--

B1 cont. sub. C7

--133. (new) A positioning method that positions an object, comprising the steps of:

moving the object;

transferring a reaction force caused by movement of the object to a first support structure;

detecting a position information of the object by a position detector supported by a second support structure dynamically isolated from the first support structure; and

positioning the object based on a detection result by the position detector.--

--134. (new) A method according to claim 133, wherein the second support structure supports the object.--

--135. (new) A method according to claim 133, wherein the second support structure is supported on a foundation.--

--136. (new) A method according to claim 135, wherein the second support structure is supported on the foundation with a block between the foundation and the second support structure.--

--137. (new) A method according to claim 136, wherein the block comprises a vibration absorbing assembly that prevents transmission of vibration from the foundation to the second support structure.--

--138. (new) A method according to claim 135, wherein the foundation is the ground or a base structure.--

--139. (new) A method according to claim 133, wherein the step of moving the object comprises driving the object with a drive.--

sub. D13

--140. (new) A method according to claim 139, wherein the step of driving the object includes rotating the object on an axis of the object.--

B1 cont.

--141. (new) A method according to claim 140, wherein the step of positioning the object comprises moving the object based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--142. (new) A method according to claim 139, wherein the step of driving the object comprises moving the object in a two dimensional plane, including moving the object in first and second linear directions and rotating the object on an axis of the object.--

--143. (new) A method according to claim 142, wherein the step of positioning the object comprises moving the object based on a detection result by the position detector so as to effect yaw correction.--

--144. (new) A method according to claim 133, further comprising:

holding the object on a movable stage.--

--145. (new) A method according to claim 144, wherein the step of moving the object comprises moving the movable stage.--

--146. (new) A method according to claim 145, wherein the step of detecting a position comprises projecting a light beam to a first mirror fixed to the movable stage.--

--147. (new) A method according to claim 145, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--148. (new) A method according to claim 145, wherein the movable stage is provided on the second support structure.--

--149. (new) A method according to claim 148, wherein the movable stage is a guideless stage having no associated guide member to guide its movement.--

--150. (new) A method according to claim 149, wherein the second support structure includes a base member, and the guideless stage is movable over a surface of the base member on a bearing.--

B1 conc.

--151. (new) A method according to claim 150, wherein the bearing is a non-contact bearing that supports the guideless stage.--

--152. (new) A method according to claim 151, wherein the non-contact bearing comprises an air bearing.--

--153. (new) A method according to claim 151, wherein the non-contact bearing includes a magnet and a cooperating coil.--

--154. (new) A method according to claim 144, wherein the step of positioning the object comprises moving the movable stage based on a detection result by the position detector.--

--155. (new) A method according to claim 144, further comprising the step of:

effecting yaw correction of the movable stage.--

--156. (new) A method according to claim 144, wherein movement of the movable stage is carried out by cooperation with a first member that is located on the first support member, and a second member that is connected to the movable stage.--

--157. (new) A method according to claim 156, wherein the first member is one of a magnet and a coil.--